



Global Hawk: the cost, the dividends

story and photos pages 3 and 4





photo by Tech. Sgt. Christopher Campbell

On the cover

The RQ-4 Global Hawk is one of the Air Force's premier reconnaissance airframes. See pages 4 and 5 for story and photos.

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photo by Tech. Sgt. Denise Johnson

'General'ly speaking, the Over 40s have it

Over 40 second baseman and 380th Air Expeditionary Wing commander, Brig. Gen. H.D. Pumbo, Jr., smacks one up the middle for a base hit Wednesday. The Over 40 team moved into the next bracket of the tournament after defeating the Wing Staff Agency, 24-14. The nicknamed "Geriatrics" are the favorites to win.

Action Line

► If you have a question or comment you would like to direct to the wing commander, send an e-mail with subject line "Commander's Forum" to: 380aew.pa@adab.afcent.af.mil. The commander will provide a response by e-mail for most issues; however, Public Affairs may consolidate duplicate questions and print the responses in a future issue of the Sand Script. People are encouraged to work issues through their chain of command prior to using the forum.

The Airman's Creed

I am an American Airman.

I am a Warrior.

I have answered my Nation's call.

I am an American Airman.

My mission is to Fly, Fight, and Win.

I am faithful to a Proud Heritage,

A Tradition of Honor,

And a Legacy of Valor.

I am an American Airman.

Guardian of Freedom and Justice,

My Nation's Sword and Shield,

Its Sentry and Avenger.

I defend my Country with my Life.

I am an American Airman.

Wingman, Leader, Warrior.

I will never leave an Airman behind,

I will never falter,

And I will not fail.

Perspective

Personal responsibility calls for individual readiness, fitness

by Col. Tim Pendergrass
380th Expeditionary Medical Group Commander

Our nation, and particularly our military, is engaged in the longest conflict in our history. Our enemy is motivated by hatred and sustained by a world-wide network of criminals. They are dedicated to the destruction of our great country and the freedom and personal liberty for which Americans have always been willing to fight.

Sir Winston Churchill once said, "The price of greatness is responsibility." An online search reveals many definitions of responsibility, including my personal favorite from The American Heritage Dictionary, "... something for which one is responsible; a duty or obligation." As "warrior Airmen" in the world's greatest Air Force, we should pursue and embrace our individual responsibility to be "ready Airmen;" physically and emotionally healthy, fit and ready to maximize our contribution to the mission of defending our country.

On a daily basis, we must practice operational risk management at work and off duty to keep safety foremost and prevent injuries that diminish our capacity to perform the mission. An injured Airman who cannot do his deployed job is not a ready Airman.

Personal fitness is a vital part of individual readiness and a personal responsibility. A fit Airman is an Airman who can step out and accomplish his or her mission without personal limits. Unfit Airmen are unable to fully perform, compromise the mission and burden their teammates with extra work. Individually, we are responsible for making the time in our schedules to maintain and improve our fitness. Those who need to improve their fitness should take ownership and actively seek out assistance in setting their personal fitness goals and programs. For those who want to step it up while deployed, this base offers a wide range of individual and guided aerobic activities from treadmills to spin classes, the weight sprung and sports. Remember ORM, use the right gear, don't exercise outside during black-flag heat conditions, and hydrate aggressively.

Like any Air Force weapons system, Airmen need periodic inspection and preventive maintenance. Our annual Home-Station Preventive Health Assessments and dental examinations are great opportunities to identify trends that need attention to prevent long-term health problems such as high cholesterol, high blood pressure or other problems that may not be evident on a day-to-day basis. However, personal responsibility for our health doesn't stop with an annual visit to the clinic and an annual fitness test. Our plan needs to include a healthy diet and avoiding toxins like tobacco, which, while legal, decrease performance. Maintaining current immunizations is an individual responsibility. Failing to stay current can leave Airmen susceptible to disabling and deadly diseases. Personal hygiene is also a significant personal responsibility in the deployed environment. Throughout history, preventable disease has incapacitated and killed far more soldiers than battlefield injuries. Only since World War II have

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Over 40 left fielder, Kevin Shavnore, shows great form with a perfect turn of the hips as he drives one deep for an in-the-park homerun.



Over 40 pitcher, Tim MacGregor, applies finesse as he strives for the six to 12-foot arc required in slow-pitch softball.

Over 40s 10-run rule WSA in deployed softball tourney, 24-14



WSA pitcher, Dave Clavette, shows his passion as he brings the bat to the ball.

Story and photos by Tech. Sgt. Denise Johnson
380th AEW Public Affairs

The 380th Air Expeditionary Wing Softball Tournament kicked off with the Over 40s taking the authoritative win over Wing Staff Agency, 24-14, at the softball complex here Wednesday.

The Over-40s came back from a 7-6 deficit at the top of the second inning to continuously hammer WSA, stretching the lead in each at-bat.

The team capitalized on fielding errors and solid hitting when in the bottom of the third inning Bruce "Shirt" Perkins, right fielder, singled with a grounder between short and third. Chief Val Rimbey-Barnett, followed up with a grounder for the force out at second.

The inning proceeded when, with two down, left fielder Chief Shavnore, the Over 40s heavy hitter, sent one deep for an in-the-park homer, scoring three runs. Command Chief Slater, third baseman, followed up with a double to be brought in with a homerun by Chief Bridges, shortstop. O-6er Kyle Garland, first baseman, finally closed the inning and brought the damage to an end with a pop fly for the final out.

Mike Frye, right fielder, stepped up as WSA's first batter of the inning to get to first on an error. Mario Morin, WSA's star shortstop, hit one deep for the first out leaving the runner stranded. Although the inning started shaky, WSA managed to recoup their losses and brought their score to within one of the Over 40s.

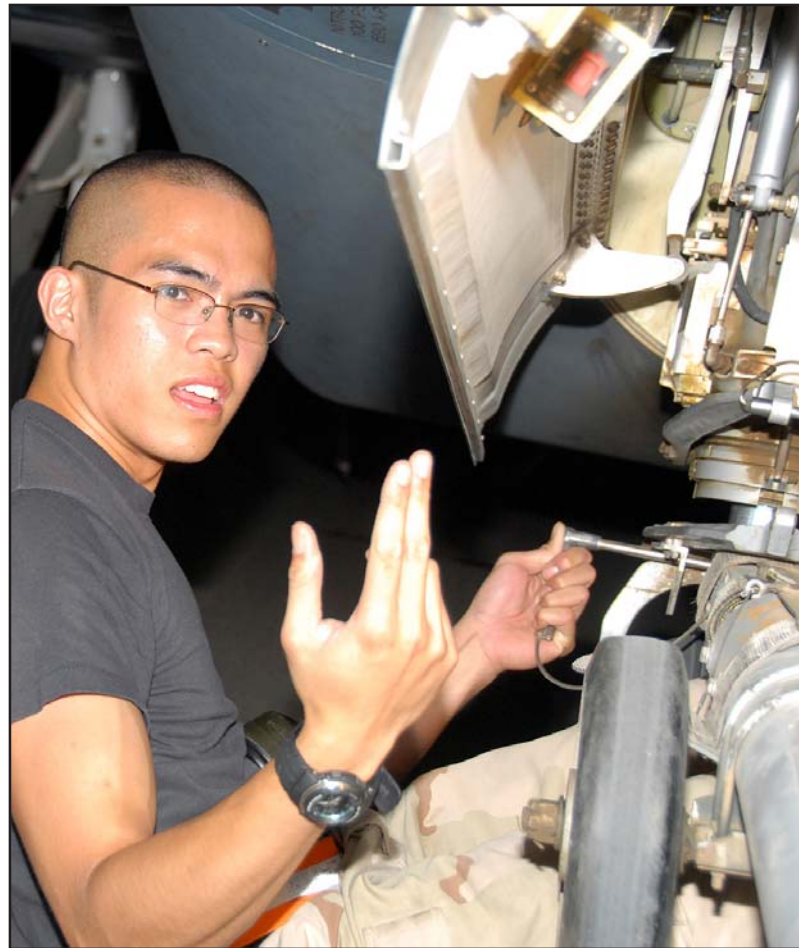
On their next at bat, the wing king himself, Brig. Gen. H.D. Pumbo, Jr., second baseman, stepped up for the Over 40s and drove one back to pitcher, Dave Clavette, for an out. Paul Murphy, the southpaw vice commander, ripped one up the first baseline for another out and a fine play by Anthony Spratley. Shouts of "I object!" came from the Over 40s dugout, providing a bit of team-to-team smack talking to the staff judge advocate major.

The battle was determined when the Over 40s lead continued to stretch to a 10-run rule difference. The WSA had to get on the scoreboard to extend the play of the game but failed to do so when a series of outs, starting with Major Joan Hoyte's pop fly to the general at second, put them out of the running.

The Over 40s played again Thursday at 8:30 p.m. The time, claimed to be past Chief Slater's bed time, did not provide their opponents the edge they were looking for.

Left: Senior Airman Michael Narciso, a member of the 380th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, motions for assistance while recovering a Global Hawk aircraft. The Global Hawk is an unmanned aerial vehicle that is being used for Operation Enduring and Iraqi Freedom. Airman Narciso is deployed from the 9th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron out of Beale Air Force Base, Calif. His hometown is Hayward, Calif.

Right: Staff Sgt. Brent Stokes, a member of the 380th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, directs a driver moving a Global Hawk aircraft into position on a scale during recovery of the aircraft. The Global Hawk is an unmanned aerial vehicle being used for Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom. Sergeant Stokes hails from the Phillipines.



photos by Tech. Sgt. Christopher A. Campbell

Global Hawk: the cost, the dividends

By Tech. Sgt. Denise Johnson
380th AEW Public Affairs

Seven flying “robots,” 16 pilots, seven sensor operators and a couple hundred maintainers add up to one of the most advanced reconnaissance missions in the U.S. Air Force operational world.

The RQ-4 Global Hawk Block 10, an unmanned aerial vehicle, is capable of some of the most technologically-advanced reconnaissance available. But what’s the cost of keeping this intelligence-gathering “bird” in the air? And do the dividends outweigh the cost?

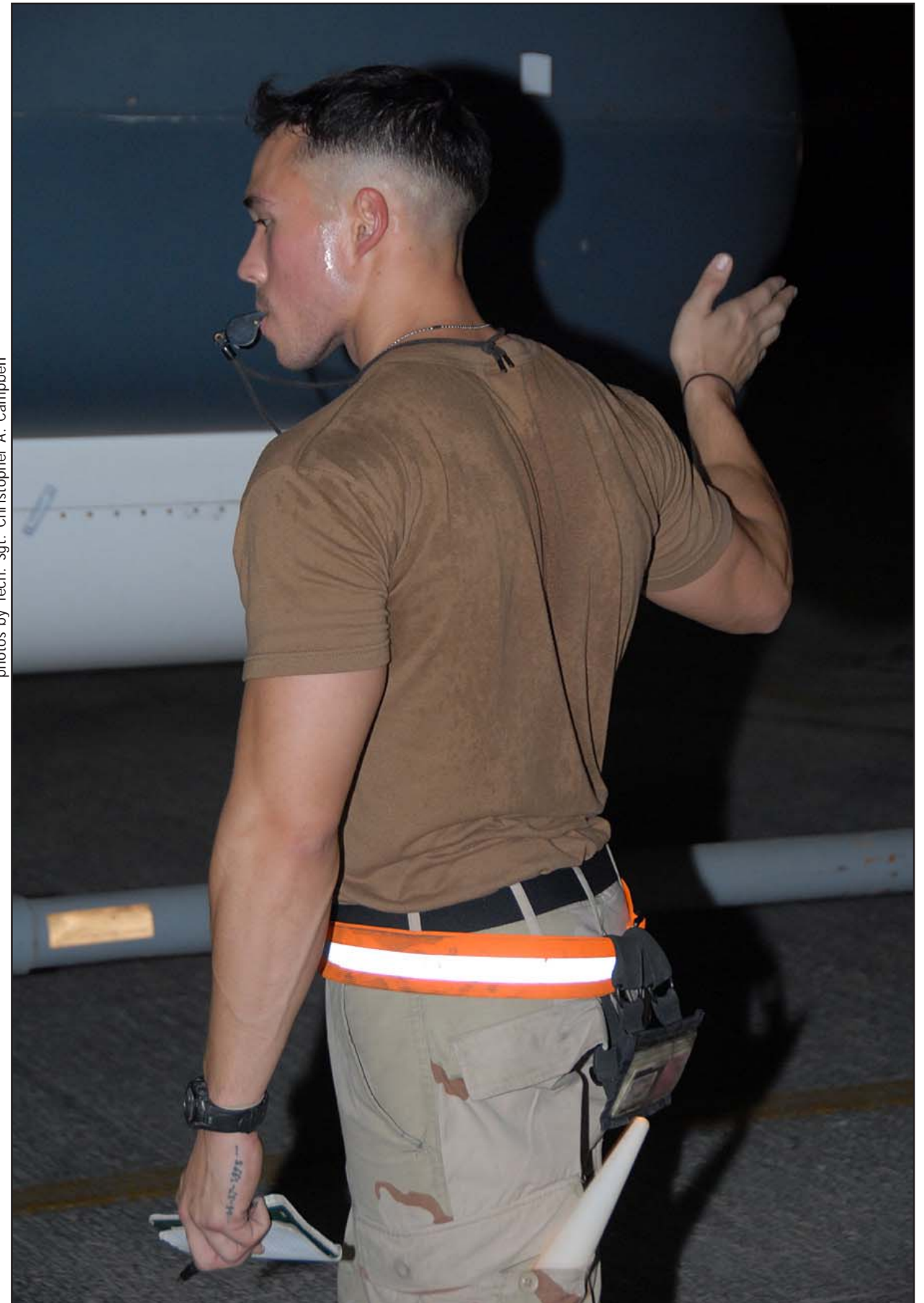
Deployments are a regular part of the Global Hawk community’s lives. One GH team is fulfilling the Air Tasking Order in Southwest Asia today providing a critical view to Area of Responsibility commanders and forces on the ground. The deployed location provides an active learning environment. It prevails upon the Airmen to face new challenges and establish steps and fixes in response to a variety of scenarios.

“At Beale (air force base) you could swap out parts all day long, but here you actually learn the job,” said Senior Airman Kathryn Launey, an electrical and environmentalist journeyman with the 380th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron here. Airman Launey is the unit’s support technician. She is stationed at Beale Air Force Base, Calif., home of the Global Hawks.

This particular UAV requires a Mission Control Element at BAFB and a Launch and Recovery Element here at the deployed location. Pilots from each location share flying time. The deployed pilot usually flies take-offs and landings, while the home-station pilots share mission time throughout the 20-plus hour sorties.

Sensor operators run the surveillance system for the aircraft. They are responsible for the imagery captured and the systems which capture those images. They share space with the home-station pilots in the MCE.

The Global Hawk provides near-real-time imagery delivered to those who need it and is flexible enough to adapt to mission changes in-flight. It can transmit site-specific images to a palm pilot in the hand of a platoon commander on the ground, or an image covering the size of Illinois to key-decision makers in the pentagon.



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photos by Tech. Sgt. Christopher A. Campbell



Senior Airman Craig Medina, with the 380th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, checks the electrolyte levels on batteries for the Global Hawk. Airman Medina is deployed from the 9th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron out of Beale Air Force Base, Calif. His hometown is Colorado Springs, Colo.

Global Hawk *cont'd from page 4*

"The aircraft is in its final stages of tests and standardization," said Maj. Rob Matlock, 12th Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron commander and Global Hawk pilot. Major Matlock deployed from BAFB, to the 380th Air Expeditionary Wing. "We are expecting the Global Hawk to go through its Operational Test and Evaluation soon. In the meantime, we're standardizing flight manuals and the maintainers are refining key technical orders."

Not being fully evaluated and approved by the Air Force has its drawbacks, as does the anomaly of the airframe. Frequent deployments – it is not uncommon for GH Airmen to have three deployments in their first term of service – and a lack of a specific technical school also poses challenges. Airmen who are used to working computer systems in offices and shops are moved to the flightline. They're asked to adapt to a "flight-line mentality" where aircraft launches and recovery become the norm. Contractual obligations can conflict with typical Air Force procedures and mindsets. Some Airmen are sent directly from technical school to work on the Global Hawks and don't get the hands-on experience with common airframes they studied in class. As they progress in rank and time for a permanent change of station nears, anxieties arise.

"When I become an NCO (noncommissioned officer) I worry I won't live up to expectations at my next assignment," Airman Launey said. "I will probably get assigned to a traditional airframe and I won't have the experience to match my rank."

These Airmen, although faced with atypical challenges on an atypical mission with an atypical airframe, are an essential element in attaining mission success, according to 380th AEW Command Chief Master Sgt. Kevin Slater. "Every GH maintainer is critical to our Air Force," he said. "They have been a low-density, high-demand asset for quite a few years."

The Global Hawk can soar at over 50k feet for more than 30 hours while being controlled from distances spanning the globe through satellite communications. Its capabilities are no more unique than the Global Hawk Airmen bridging the gap on the ground.

Senior Airman James Spence, a ground communications technician

with the 380th EAMXS, finds it frustrating at times that the communications station technical orders are not up to speed with the aircraft technical orders. "A lot of our technical data is limited," he said. "We're using a lot of commercial equipment so it's a matter of updating documentation."

There are bumps in the road, and the rewards are not frequent, but they are there and they carry more impact. "Last Thanksgiving we had some friends over for dinner. Our guests brought a Marine with them to join us for the holiday," Airman Spence explained. "When he found out I worked with the Global Hawks, he couldn't thank me enough. They've used our imagery in the AOR. He said we're definitely helping."

Airman Spence's Thanksgiving became more meaningful, he said, as this Marine brought a new perspective to him about his job. "He made it more real. We're so far removed from the results of our work; we normally don't see the impact of what we do."

Far removed or in the thick of it, reminders and acknowledgement come in the least likely places and when they are least expected. Airman Launey said she remembers a visit from an Army major last year. "He came to thank us. He said they got the imagery just in time," she said. "It's the little moments like that, along with the pride your family feels for you; that's what makes you feel like you're doing something."

Global Hawk maintainers are pooled from all walks of Air Force life. From ground communications and jet-engine mechanics, to avionics and computer specialists, they are all laying a foundation on which the future of the airframe, and the people attached to it, will rest.

"The necessity and value of this platform is paramount – our forward-deployed warriors have an absolute need for the capabilities of the GH – our maintainers on the line are launching sorties every day providing critical intelligence to combatant commanders and ultimately saving American lives," Chief Slater said.

The path to steady-state operations on the Global Hawk is not fully paved. That path is however, a well-traveled maneuverable road leading us perhaps, to a place beyond the scope of our imagination.

RQ-4 BLOCK 10 GLOBAL HAWK

Wingspan: 116.2 ft (35.4 m)
Length: 44.4 ft (13.5 m)
Height: 14.6 ft (4.2 m)
Gross Takeoff Weight: 26,700 lbs (12,110.9 kg)
Maximum Altitude: 65,000 ft (19.8 km)
Payload: 2,000 lbs (907.2 kg)
Ferry Range: 12,000 nm (22,236 km)
Loiter Velocity: 343 knots TAS
On-Station Endurance at 1,200 nm: 24 Hours
Maximum Endurance: 35 Hours

Program Overview:

The Northrop Grumman RQ-4 Block 10 Global Hawk is currently supporting the U.S. Air Force in the global war on terrorism. During 2006, two air systems logged more than 8,000 combat hours conducting intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance missions. The Global Hawks are operated overseas by USAF pilots from a mission control element stationed at Beale Air Force Base in Northern California. A launch and recovery element and a combined USAF and Northrop Grumman team are forward deployed with the air systems. The Global Hawk is equipped with electro-optical, infrared and synthetic aperture radar sensors to provide high-quality real-time imagery.

Specifications:

Few aircraft have shown such utility and deployment capability so early in flight testing. Global Hawk's autonomous high-altitude, long-endurance (HALE) flight characteristics are proven. The air vehicle flies at altitudes up to 65,000 feet for up to 35 hours at speeds approaching 340 knots. It can image an area the size of the state of Illinois in just one mission. During its trials with the Air Force's 31st Test and Evaluation Squadron and during its first deployment in Operation Enduring Freedom, the Global Hawk system was shown to be flexible and dynamically retaskable. (Information courtesy of <http://www.is.northropgrumman.com/systems/ghrq4a.html>)



Chief Karen De Jong, base coach, gives Command Chief Slater props after he lands a single.



Left fielder, Kevin Shavnore, is greeted at the dugout with high-fives and cheers from Over 40 teammates after an in-the-park homerun Thursday. The game was a decided win over WSA, 24-14.

Over 40s *cont'd from page 3*

The second game of the tournament pitted the Fire Dawgs against Security Forces Squadron 30A. The Fire Dawgs grabbed the early lead ending the first inning 6-2.

30A struggled to get on base in the second inning, failing to score, allowing the Fire Dawgs an opportunity for a definitive lead. Keith Read, first baseman, looked 'em over for a walk in the second inning. Rene Luna, second baseman, hit a poke for a single, moving Read to third.

The next two batters moved the runners around and brought base runners onto second and third at a sacrifice of two outs. Brian Tonnancour, left center, got to first on an error and gained a RBI in the process. The Dawgs finished the inning with 8 over 2.

30A started the third inning with an out for their first batter. The second batter moved to third on fielding errors, bringing Kevin Kline, first baseman, up with an easy RBI off a base hit. Sade Spencer, second baseman, hit into the force out at second and saved herself on first. The inning ended with the 30A team adding one to the scoreboard.

Jason Manko, right fielder, had a brief show at the plate when he hit one deep to right center. The hit turned into an out as Aaron Goldsmith, right fielder, hustled over to right center for the pick up and sent the batter back to the dugout. Designated hitter, Mark Waters, hit one in front of the plate for an early second out. Third baseman Carl Doke made an appearance at first only to be left stranded as Mitchell Robinson, pitcher, hit a line drive to 30A's third baseman, Ben Hartley, to seal the missed opportunity to score.

Fire Dawgs' pitcher, Robinson, lost his rhythm as the game progressed

and he struggled to get the ball over the plate.

The 30As took the reprieve and walked several batters, including several walk-in runs. Vanessa Batten, left fielder, managed a short fly ball to right and Matthew Jeitz, DH, hit a grounder to first. An error on 30A's shortstop, Chad Diehl, moved runners around the bases. After three walked runs, the Dawgs called Jerome Black to the mound from left field.

David LeBlanc, shortstop, hit a grounder to Luna at second, who threw to first for the sure out, but missed the double play. Kline came up swinging as well, and hit one back to Black for the last out of the inning at first.

The Dawgs started the next inning with a triple. An error on Kline at short brought in a RBI with a base hit following. Read got to first on another error but was forced out at second. A walk fills the first two bases.

Errors and ok hits brought the Dawgs around the bases to a score of 10-7 over the struggling SFS 30A team. Leblanc stopped a hard bouncer to short for the second out at second base but Manko returned the favor with a deep hit to left. By the grace of another error, he moved to third. The Dawgs wrapped up their at-bat with a score of 12-7.

The game maintained the same pace as the Dawgs increased their lead, and the 30As battled back to attempt to even the score. Brandon Ranahan, catcher for the 30As, gave his all with a deep drive to left. The hit looked like a possible triple only to be snatched up by Tonnancour as he flew in from far left for a great catch out of the blue.

The game ended 18-8, seeing the Fire Dawgs into the next bracket. See next week's Sand Script to find out who took the championship.

The final tallies for the first night of games are as follows:

Over 40 vs WSA	24-14
Fire Dawgs vs SFS 30A	18-8
SFS vs FSS	17-7
CE 2 vs CE 3	22-19

The final tallies for the second night of games are as follows:

Fire Dawgs vs 5/6 Council	23-16
CES 1 vs SFS	33-4
Over 40 vs CES 1	22-13

Note: winners are the first team listed

See next week's Sand Script for final scores of the final games to be held 6:30 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday at the sports field.

"The favorites" Over-40 Line Up

***Brig. Gen. H.D. Pumbo, Jr.**

Colonels

Kyle Garland	1b
Frederick Thaden	
*Paul Murphy	C

Lt. Colonels

Wayne Blanchette	2b
Charles Cunningham	LC
*Adrian White	
*Lawrence Brundidge	
*Matthew Venzke	
*Timothy MacGregor	

Command Chief Kevin Slater 3b

Chief Master Sgts.

Kevin Shavnore	LF
Karen De Jong	
*Val Rimbey-Barnett	P
Arthur Bridges	SS

Master Sgts.

Bruce Perkins	RC
Randall Boldt	RF

Captain

*Steven Keifer

**Substitute*

Why I think the Thirsty Camel is closed

By Master Sgt. Jeffrey Baldwin
380th ELRS First Sergeant

As you all know the Thirsty Camel has been closed until further notice by order of the 380th Air Expeditionary Wing Commander, Brig. Gen. H.D. Pumbo, Jr. "Why is it closed," you ask? Is it because of the alcohol-related incidents which occurred Saturday night/Sunday morning? The answer is both yes and no.

The closing, while triggered by the actions of a select few Airmen on Saturday, does not solely fall on their shoulders. As a wing, we've allowed ourselves to think it's ok to have two drinks before 10 p.m. – then get two more after midnight – because the system allows it. This is totally untrue. The reason we are limited to two drinks is so we can respond to emergencies when needed; we are, after all, in a deployed environment with known threats against us.

Does Khobar Towers mean anything to you? It means something to me. Those Airmen thought they were safe when conflict found them. How many more would have been injured or killed had there not been competent, sober professionals around to spring into action? I want to have full use of my faculties when called upon, whenever that may be. We are here supporting a war in two other countries, but we could be seconds away from conflict at our own doorstep. Think about how it reflects on you when you go to the bar after midnight for a second day's ration of drinks.

Drinking the total allotted drinks just because you can, is like saying the liquor store back at home sold you a case of beer so you need to drink the whole

thing and drive yourself home. Only a fool would think that, but it's that same reasoning that leads you back to the bar after midnight.

Why do many of us go back to the bar after midnight? We all know it's so you can get a good "buzz" on. I'll just say if you're feeling the effects that noticeably, you are beyond your capacity to respond if needed. If you are feeling that "buzz," you are only a moment away from being the individual on the security forces blotter involved in an alcohol-related incident. I'm here to serve my country and to serve my fellow Airmen, brothers in the Profession of Arms. While I like to have a beer or two on occasion, I can say I am proud to serve you and my country "buzz" free.

I sincerely hope this dry period will be used by all of us to reflect on why we are here and why we do what we do. Do you really need to have those four drinks over a span of three hours? If you do, please ask yourself why? Do you feel like you need that alcohol? Do you feel like it's a necessity to cope with the environment you're in? If you answered yes, you need it, then you probably need help. Come to me and I'll help you find it.

I am deeply honored to serve with all of you here in the 380th AEW. As a whole, we are an unstoppable force enabling the war fighters in the air and on the ground to deliver the lethal blow our enemies have brought upon themselves. As General Pumbo said, "We have a noble mission here." Let's continue to serve as noble Airmen, without the buzz.

Proud to be, the 380th ELRS First Sergeant.



To view the latest news, photos, and videos from around the wing, check out the 380th Air Expeditionary Wing's public web site:

<http://www.380aew.afnews.af.mil/>

Share this site
with family and
friends.



Changes to off-base travel

In effect: all personnel departing the installation for Group Commander Approved Travel or Official Business Travel must sign in/out at the Chapman Activity Center. Personnel will no longer sign in/out at US Gate 1.

All existing curfew rules still apply. All personnel who left vehicles unattended while off base must still process through the Vehicle Search Area and US Gate 1. Personnel must have transited the VSA and US Gate 1, and be signed in at the CAC by 12 a.m. to meet the curfew.

Perspective *cont'd from page 2*

preventive medicine practices and meticulous attention to personal and unit hygiene reversed this ratio.

Stress, whether from personal relationships strained by deployments, financial difficulties or countless other causes, can hurt us and undermine our mission focus. If you feel out of control, stressed out or unable to cope, or are having thoughts of harming yourself or someone else, don't try and keep it all inside when you know you need a helping hand. Assistance is readily available from staff at the chapel, the medical clinic and the mental health clinic.

When it comes to mental health, we not only need to be responsible as individuals to know when to ask for help but we also need to look out for each other as wingmen.

This is certainly just a peek at the many areas in our lives where personal responsibility gives us the opportunity to improve our support of the mission. Challenge yourselves each and every day to seek out new personal responsibilities. Those who embrace their health and fitness responsibilities maximize their contribution to the mission: in short, they are warrior Airmen.

Note from the editor:

The 380th AEW/PA team is dedicated to serving you, their customers. E-mail the editor at 380aew.pa@adab.afcent.af.mil to share your views or opinions. We are also interested in sharing your story, so send us ideas or views to improve our products.

We also accept articles and commentaries from our viewers and are more than happy to assist any aspiring journalists. To view more photos of what happened around the wing, visit the 380th Air Expeditionary Wing's intranet site and click on "Photos" under the "Wing Links" tab.